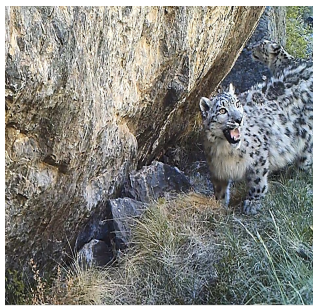
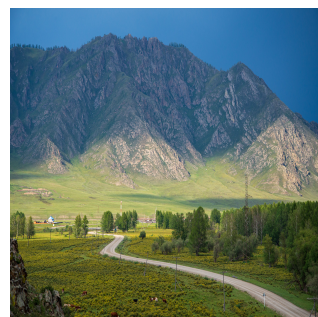


# In the Land of the Snow Leopard

Wild animal watching in Altai



Altai Mountains are not only amazing landscapes, but also a rich animal world. On this trip, you will visit hidden corners where the main tourist routes do not pass. You will see marmots, ground squirrels, argali, foxes, eagles soaring in the sky and visit places where snow leopards and manuls live.

# Experiences you'll have

## Tour to the Altai Mountains

Want to find yourself where snow leopards and manuls live? You don't have to hike through the mountains for 5 days with a backpack and sleep in a tent!

We made it so that not only candidates for master of sports, but also people of any age can see magnificent places with untouched nature.

This tour is designed for those who want to get to the most hidden corners of Altai, walk untrodden paths, and see wild animals with their own eyes. We always spend the night in small houses, and immerse ourselves in nature as much as possible during easy hiking trips.

### Highlights of the journey:

We will get to those places hidden from most tourists, where the snow leopard lives  
We will check the camera traps and, perhaps, find out that the Pallas's cat and the snow leopard passed by here just a few days ago  
You will see with your own eye's marmots, gophers, argali, foxes, mountain goats, vultures and eagles soaring in the sky. It is in the areas of our route that numerous burial mounds, rock paintings, strange stone layouts, some of which are more than 5,000 years old, are best preserved. It is possible that you will find previously unknown petroglyphs or burial mounds  
We will meet the locals and visit them

**We accept bookings for private tours. Price per person depends on the number of people in your group. For details, please contact our managers.**  
Price starts from 2348 USD.

Altai

Most popular

In the Land of the Snow Leopard

Difficulty

Age

from 12 y.o.

Group size

from 4 to 9

Duration

10 days

Accomodation at the trip

8 nights 2 nights

Языки

EN

guide

DE

guide

from 2 348 EUR

# Itinerary

The journey begins in Gorno-Altaysk, where you need to get there yourself on the eve before the start of the program.

*This is a general plan of the tour, the route may vary depending on the weather conditions.*

### Day 1

**Meeting at the airport. Transfer to the hotel. Time for rest.**

At 17.00 we will meet in the lobby of the hotel to get acquainted and to discuss our tour.

After that we will take short walk in the city and have dinner together.

### Day 2

**In the morning, we will meet you at the place you specify**

or at the airport. We will get acquainted with the only city and the capital of the Republic. And then we will visit the National Museum of the Altai Republic. Here, in a special sarcophagus, rests the famous Altai Princess.

After lunch, we set off along the Chuysky Tract, connecting Russia with Mongolia. Today it will take us to the cozy green Karakol Valley, for local residents this is a sacred place. Apparently, it has always been like this: it is not without reason that there is a real accumulation of ancient monuments here - burial mounds, megalithic steles, and petroglyphs. In the valley live demoiselle cranes, eagles soar in the sky, cute gophers run everywhere, and in the most secret places grow real edelweiss.

In the evening, we will taste the national Altai cuisine and listen to the throat singer - kaichi.

**Rotue length: 200 km by car, 3 km on foot.**

### Day 3

**In the morning, we will get to know the Karakol Valley**

better - we will visit the royal burial mounds, see the three-headed peak of Uch-Enmek, collect water from healing springs according to local traditions and learn what story the wooden sculptures in



Kulada tell.

And then - again to the Chuysky tract. How many interesting things await us ahead: the Chike-Taman pass, the first bridge over the Katun, the confluence of the Chuya and Katun. You will get to know the petroglyphs in Kalbak-Tash and see how the Geyser Lake paints its pictures.

Today there is a chance to see a black stork, grazing yaks, and in case of special luck, a mink at Geyser Lake.

Closer to the evening we will enter the high-mountain Kurai steppe and see the magnificent peaks of the North Chuya Range. The mountains here reach 4000 meters and higher, their peaks are covered with eternal snow and glaciers.

*Route length: 210 km by car, 1-2 km on foot.*

#### **Day 4**

##### **Today we will devote the whole day to the Kurai steppe.**

How many mysteries and secrets it holds! Turkic burial mounds, ancient irrigation ditches, warriors carved from stone. The road winds through the steppe, sometimes going up a hill, sometimes going down. But it is quite possible that these are not hills at all, but just "ripples in the sand".

Our main goal is Lake Dzhangyzkol, a photographer's dream. It is quite small, but it is conveniently located at the foot of the North Chuisky Range, and majestic peaks are reflected in it, like in a mirror. Let's hope that we will be lucky with the weather, and the lake will be calm.

Today we have our first trekking. We will climb the hills surrounding the lake, walk along the ridge, admiring the reflection of the snow-capped mountains in the water's surface, and descend to an amazingly beautiful swampy area with bizarre saucers of water and a river meandering between them.

*Route length: 60 km by car, 6 km on foot, elevation difference 100-150m.*

#### **Day 5**

##### **In the morning, we leave for the Kokkol base. It is located**

at an altitude of 2500 meters, in the valley of the Naryngol River, which literally "rests" on the harsh rocks of the Chikhachev Range. But the path to the base is not only difficult, but also extremely interesting. Therefore, the road will take us the whole day.

First, the huge Chuya steppe will open up before us. Behind the village of Kokorya, we will admire the Kyzylshyn gorge with hills of incredible burgundy shades. Then our path will go along the Yustyd River, famous for its archaeological monuments. We will definitely stop and look at the creations of the ancient inhabitants of the steppe - stone circles, triangles and other figures created thousands of years ago for a purpose that is still unclear even to scientists.

Next, the incredibly beautiful Kindykykul Lake awaits us - a real paradise for waterfowl. Here you can see mountain geese, scoters, and cormorants drying their wings. And in the mountains above live steppe eagles, golden eagles, and falcons.

*Route length: 135 km by car, 1-2 km on foot.*

#### **Day 6**

##### **Today we will rise above the lake and the Naryngol valley**

to a height of 3000 meters. With each step to the top, majestic views of black rocks with bowls of turquoise lakes on one side and velvet steppes stretching into the distance on the other will open up before us.

It is here, deep in the high ridges, that snow leopards and Pallas' cats live, which means that mountain goats and mountain sheep pasture here too. It is not so easy to see them, but with a high probability we will meet marmots, foxes and hares. They may get caught in our lens, we will see eagles and vultures soaring in the sky.

The flora of the highlands is also amazing. Familiar plants and flowers are significantly reduced copies. The blooming yellow mountain poppies and blue alpine forget-me-nots are very pleasing to the eye, here you can also find rare medicinal plants - pink rhodiola, red brush and others.

*Route length: 15 km by car, intensive 10 km on foot, elevation*

*difference 500m.*

## **Day 7**

### **Today we will cross the entire Chuya steppe by car,**

heading to the visitor center of the Sailyugem National Park in Chagan-Burgazy. This is the only national park in Altai, and its main goal is to preserve snow leopards and argali mountain sheep.

On the way, we will stop at the Telengits Museum in the village of Kokorya. Very interesting archaeological finds and historical items from the Chuya steppe are kept here. In Kosh-Agach, we will visit the local market, where you can buy cashmere, woolen products and souvenirs from Mongolia.

Today we will stop at the foot of the Sailyugem Range. Although there are still several dozen kilometers to the national park, here we begin to get acquainted with its inhabitants. Next to the visitor center there are entire colonies of pikas and gophers, red-billed alpine jackdaws merrily jump along the roofs of the houses, and a hare can run between the houses. And high in the sky, steppe eagles, vultures and golden eagles are in full control.

*Route length: 120 km by car, 1-2 km on foot.*

## **Day 8**

### **Today we will go to the very heart of the wild nature of**

Altai. First, we will drive deep into the Saylyugemsky ridge in a high-cross-country vehicle, and then take a walk of about 5 km. Saylyugemsky Park is a habitat for many species of animals, including rare ones. We will be joined by a park ranger, thanks to whom we will have a good chance to see marmots, foxes, argali, vultures and eagles with our own eyes. Once we were even lucky enough to see a very rare Saylyugem bear.

And of course, this territory is the habitat of the snow leopard. Together with the ranger, we will check the camera traps. Perhaps the leopards were here just a few days ago.

Our way back will pass through real edelweiss fields. In the evening, we will return to the visitor center of the park.

*Route length: 50-60 km by car, intensive 8 km on foot, elevation difference 300m.*

## **Day 9**

### **Today is the final day of our wilderness adventure, and**

we'll visit a unique viewpoint offering a 360-degree panorama of nearly the entire South Altai.

But first, we'll land on Mars - not just one, but at least two Martian landscapes. Unique geological processes have transformed the Kyzyl-Chin River valley into a true Martian scenery. Here you can find ancient mollusks and fossils. The plants are equally fascinating - tree-like wormwood, sprawling caragana bushes, and rare ephedra.

But the main highlight is still ahead! We will drive by car to a viewpoint at 3,000 meters where the entire area of the snow leopard will unfold before our eyes like an open book. We'll see four mountain ranges, the entire Chui Steppe, the winding Chuya River below, and the Chuysky Tract following its curves. We'll take one last look at the places we've visited and maybe pick out destinations for your next tour.

*Route length: 100 km by car, 4 km on foot, elevation difference 200m.*

## **Day 10**

### **Today marks our final journey back to Gorno-Altaysk via**

the ever-fascinating Chuysky Tract. We've saved some special stops to keep the adventure alive until the very end.

Estimated arrival: 5:00-6:00 PM in Gorno-Altaysk For next-day flights: We're happy to assist with hotel bookings to ensure your comfortable transition home.

***Route length: 460 km by car.***

## **Day 11**

**After breakfast we will transfer you to the airport for your**

# Accomodation at the trip

Nights 0 & 9: Gorno-Altaiisk, Hotel 3 Stars, double room

Nights 1-3 & 8: Guesthouses (2-3 bed rooms), private shower & toilet.

Nights 4-5: Guesthouses (2 bed rooms), private toilet & sink (no shower), banya available.

Nights 6-7: Traditional "ails" (4-5 people), outdoor toilet, banya.

## FAQ

### What will the weather be like

Mountain weather keeps things interesting! Temperature can vary from +5°C to +30°C (41°F to 86°F).

Rainy days are possible.

### What to bring with me

Documents:

- passport (birth certificate for children)

Clothes and shoes:

- a warm jacket or a light down jacket for cold evenings
- a comfortable trekking jacket
- a waterproof hooded jacket or a raincoat
- light trousers
- insulated trousers, a sweater/hoodie, a jacket and a hat in case of bad weather
- 2 T-shirts, 2 light long-sleeve
- shirts, a change of clothes and shoes for recreation at the bases
- discarded trekking shoes
- sneakers
- headdress (cap, hat or bandana)
- cotton and wool socks 2-3 pairs
- swimsuit/swimming trunks, rubber slippers for the bath

Personal items and equipment:

- a travel bag or backpack for transporting personal belongings
- a small trekking backpack
- sunscreen, glasses
- mosquito repellent
- a water bottle
- a personal first-aid kit and personal hygiene
- products, a flashlight
- a powerbank, a travel seat
- photo and video equipment with batteries and flash
- drives, trekking poles
- binoculars

### Meals

3 meals per day (at cafés, guesthouses, or prepared by our team in remote areas). Lunch during excursion or hiking can be organized as picnic.

Typical day: Breakfast: Porridge, scrambled eggs, pancakes, cheese, sausage, muesli, yoghurt Lunch (picnic style): Bread, cheese, sausage, butter, fresh vegetables, canned vegetables, jam, cookies, sweets, etc.

Lunch (at cafés): Soup or a hot main dish Dinner: Salad + hot meat dish with a side Drinks: Green/black tea, instant coffee Not included: Breakfast on Day 1 Dinner on the last day

What transport is used on the route

Paved roads (Days 1-2, 9): Comfortable air-conditioned vans (Mercedes Vito or similar).  
Off-road/remote locations (Days 3-8): UAZ "Buhanka" or 4x4 SUVs.

Who will be my guide

Experienced tour guides will be with you throughout the tour. A park inspector will accompany you to Sailugemsky National Park.

Fitness Level Required

Fitness level - moderate.  
The program includes: 4 radial treks (5-10 km distance) with elevation difference: 150-500 meters.

Booking

Altai

In the Land of the Snow Leopard

Most popular

Difficulty

Age

Group size

Duration

from 12 y.o.

from 4 to 9

10 days

Accommodation at the trip

8 nights 2 nights

from 2 348 EUR

What's included in the price:

— accommodation (guesthouses, eco-lodges, hotel)

— meals (3 per day)

— program transfers (all scheduled transportation)

— guide services (professional bilingual guide)

— entrance fees & permits: National Museum of Altai Republic, Kalbak-Tash archaeological site, Geyser Lake, Telengit Museum (Kokorya village), Mars Valley

— private throat-singing (kaichi) performance

— national park ranger escort (1 day)

— tick-borne encephalitis insurance

Extra charge:

— [airfare](#) to Gorno-Altaiisk and back

— travel insurance (medical/accident coverage)

— personal expenses – souvenirs, gifts, or other individual purchases

— alcoholic beverages

4 jul 2026, sat — 13 jul 2026, mon

from 2 348 EUR

1 aug 2026, sat — 10 aug 2026, mon

from 2 348 EUR

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